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AMENDMENT

Page 23, line 30, delete "Microelisa" and insert -- MICROELISA®-- in place thereof.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 4 and 5.

12. (four times amended) A method for screening patients for [autoimmune disorders] <u>autoantibodies to Ro/SSA</u> comprising reacting a biological sample with a peptide forming a linear epitope selected from the group of peptides of less than forty amino acids, beginning with the amino acid numbered from the amino terminus followed by the listed amino acid sequence consisting of

the Ro/SSA epitopes: 30, MNRLHRFL (Sequence Listing ID No. 37), 37, LCFGSEGGT (Sequence Listing ID No. 38), 38, CFGSEGGT (amino acids 2-9 of Sequence Listing ID No. 38), 41, SEGGTYYIKEQ (Sequence Listing ID No. 39), 42, EGGTYYIKEQ (amino acids 2-11 of Sequence Listing ID No. 39), 44, GTYYIKEQ (amino acids 4-11 of Sequence Listing ID No. 39), 44, GTYYI (amino acids 4-8 of Sequence Listing ID No. 39), 76, EIKSFSQEGRT (Sequence Listing ID No. 40), 78, KSFSQEGR (amino acids 3-10 of Sequence Listing ID No. 40), 81, SQEGRTTKQ (Sequence Listing ID No. 41), 84, GRTTKQEPM (Sequence Listing ID No. 42), 106, STKQAAFKAV (amino acids 2-11 of Sequence Listing ID No. 43), 105, ISTKQAAFKAVS (Sequence Listing ID No. 43), 108, KQAAFKAV (amino acids 4-11 of Sequence Listing ID No. 43), 111, AFKAVSEVC (Sequence Listing ID

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No. 44), 126, FTFIQFKKDLKESMK (Sequence Listing ID No. 45), 130, QFKKDLKE (amino acids 5-12 of Sequence Listing ID No. 45), 138, SMKCGMWGRA (Sequence Listing ID No. 46), 139, MKCGMWGRA (amino acids 2-10 of Sequence Listing ID No. 46), 142, GMWGRALRKAIA (Sequence Listing ID No. 47), 145, GRALRKAI (amino acids 4-11 of Sequence Listing ID No. 47), 165, ALAVTKYKQRNGWSHKDLLRLSH (Sequence Listing ID No. 48), 169, TKYKQRNG (amino acids 5-12 of Sequence Listing ID No. 48), 173, QRNGWSHK (amino acids 9-16 of Sequence Listing ID No. 48), 182, LLRLSHLKPSS (Sequence Listing ID No. 49), 184, RLSHLKPS (amino acids 3-10 of Sequence Listing ID No. 49), 199, TKYITKGW (amino acids 2-9 of Sequence Listing ID No. 71), 202, ITKGWKEV (amino acids 5-12 of Sequence Listing ID No. 71), 210, HELYKEKA (Sequence Listing ID No. 50), 212, LYKEKALSV (Sequence Listing ID No. 51), 216, KALSVETEKLLKYL (Sequence Listing ID No. 52), 222, TEKLLKYL (amino acids 7-14 of Sequence Listing ID No. 52), 224, KLLKYLEA (Sequence Listing ID No. 53), 229, LEAVEKVKRTKDE (Sequence Listing ID No. 54), 234, KVKRTKDE (amino acids 6-13 of Sequence Listing ID No. 54), 257, HLLTNHLKSKEVWKALLQEMPL (Sequence Listing ID No. 55), 263, LKSKEVWK (amino acids 7-14 of Sequence Listing ID No. 55), 264, KSKEVWKA (amino acids 8-15 of Sequence Listing ID No. 55), 265, SKEVWK (amino acids 9-14 of Sequence Listing ID No. 55), 280 ALLRNLGKMTA (Sequence Listing ID No. 56), 283, RNLGKMT (amino acids 4-10 of Sequence Listing ID No. 56), 285, LGKMTANS

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(Sequence Listing ID No. 57), 308, LCNEKLLKKARIHPFHI (Sequence Listing ID No. 58), 313, LLKKARI (amino acids 6-12 of Sequence Listing ID No. 58), 315, KKARIHPF (amino acids 8-15 of Sequence Listing ID No. 58), 330, TYKTGHGLRGKLKWRPDE (Sequence Listing ID No. 59), 331, YKTGHGL (amino acids 2-8 of Sequence Listing ID No. 59), 352, ALDAAFYK (Sequence Listing ID No. 60), 355, AAFYKTFKTVEPTGKRFLLA (Sequence Listing ID No. 61), 379, ASMNQRVLGS (Sequence Listing ID No. 62), 365, EPTGKRFL (amino acids 11-18 of Sequence Listing ID No. 61), 398, AMCMVVTR (Sequence Listing ID No. 63), 414, AFSDEMVP (Sequence Listing ID No. 64), 420, VPCPVTTD (Sequence Listing ID No. 65), 433, VLMAMSOI (Sequence Listing ID No. 66), 445, TDCSLPMI (Sequence Listing ID No. 67), 449, LPMIWAQKTNTPA (amino acids 3-15 of Sequence Listing ID No. 68), 472, TFAGGVHPAI (Sequence Listing ID No. 69), 472, TFAGGVHP (amino acids 1-8 of Sequence Listing ID No. 69), 481, IALREYRKKMDIPAKL (Sequence Listing ID No. 70), 484, REYRKKMD (amino acids 4-11 of Sequence Listing ID No. 70).

- 13. (twice amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the peptide is labelled with a compound selected from the group consisting of dyes, fluorescent labels, chemiluminescent labels, enzymes, and radioactive labels.
- 16. (three times amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising predicting the prognosis of the patient based